

Smoking Prevention on Job Sites



PRESENTED BY:

MEETING START TIME:

DATE OF MEETING:

MEETING END TIME:

Keep the Conversation Going with a Safety Talk Question:

How Can We More Effectively Manage Smoking on Our Project?

1. What's the Issue?

- Smoking on construction sites is a health and safety risk that exposes workers including non-smokers (secondhand smoke) to harmful chemicals, a fire/explosion hazard, and an obstacle to productivity.
- Results from a CDC study showed that construction has one of the highest smoking rates at ~29% of the workforce.
- The best approach is to prohibit smoking and tobacco use entirely. E-cigarettes and vapes pose the same risks as traditional tobacco should be treated no differently.
- If smoking is permitted, it's important to establish the right guidelines to maintain a safe and efficient work environment.

2. What are Effective Management Strategies?

- Stay Informed – Become familiar with your organization's policy, which will often include clear guidelines on where and when smoking is permitted, consequences for violations, and information about educational programs detailing health risks and the benefits of quitting.
- Stick to Designated Areas – Only smoke in specific areas that have been designated for tobacco use. These areas should be clearly marked, located away from flammable materials and high-traffic zones, and equipped with non-combustible receptacles for safe disposal.
- Respect Strict Zones – Pay attention to strict "No Smoking" zones. These areas are typically indicated by signage and located in areas away from flammable materials or dense traffic to prevent fire/explosion hazards and secondhand smoke. Many organizations enforce immediate action against violations.
- Reporting – Notify a supervisor immediately when identifying policy violations, fire hazards, or missing equipment (like receptacles). Hesitation only increases the risk.
- Smoke-Free Culture – Learn about how your organization promotes the benefits of establishing a smoke-free workplace including overall health and wellness as well as recognition and rewards for employees who adhere to the tobacco policies.
- Cessation Support – If you or a co-worker is considering reducing or quitting tobacco, take advantage of resources offered by your employer, which may include classes/programs or counseling services.

Sources:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/substance-use/tobacco/index.html>
2. <http://medbox.iiab.me/modules/en-cdc/www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/tobacco/default.html>
3. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1998-10-26>

